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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/015,436	12/13/2001	Mark C. Hlavach	64392-0080	5696

44200 7590 10/07/2004

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EXAMINER

TRAN, KHOA H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3634

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/015,436

Applicant(s)

HLAVACH ET AL.

Examiner

Khoan Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-15,19,21,29 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-15,19,21,29 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4-15, 19, 21, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hellenkamp et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,822,927) in view of Kaaden (U. S. Patent No. 4,769,951) and Presto (U. S. Patent No. 4,328,642). Hellenkamp et al. disclose a vehicle double-walled panel comprising an outer panel (26), an inner panel (28), the outer panel having one or more outer attachment points and at least one connector (58) that connects to the inner panel inner attachment points, see Figures 15, 16, and 18; the outer panel having support structures (36) extended longitudinally between first and second ends. Hellenkamp et al. do not teach the inner panel having support structures extend longitudinally between first and second ends. However, Kaadeen teaches a plastic inner panel having support structures (2) extend longitudinally between first and second ends. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the inner panel of Hellenkamp et al. with the provision of plastic support structures as taught by Kaaden in order to enable to transmitting the forces occurring into the frame of the body of the vehicle. Presto teaches both of the inner and outer panels are made of plastic reinforced fiberglass or other suitable plastic material; see Column 2, lines 10-12. Presto further teaches the plastic inner panel supports hardware such as locks, latches

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(71), and hinge members, see column 2, lines 4-8, and column 3, lines 13-4, and 22-25.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have made the modified double-walled panel of Hellenkamp et al. in view of Kaaden to be entirely of reinforce plastic panels and to provide hardware of locks and latches that supported by the inner panel as taught by Presto in order to have an operational door that is lightweight and supports hardware therein. Further, it is well-within the level of skill in the art to utilize the known materials of plastic per se to produce the door panels of Hellenkamp et al. in view of Kaaden therefrom accordingly to its suitability of intended use without structurally alter the door function thus it does not produce any new matter or unexpected results.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-15, 19, 21, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Habdas (U. S. Patent No. 5,741,039) in view of Presto (U. S. Patent No. 4,328,642). Habdas discloses all limitations of a double-walled panel except the inner and outer panels are made of plastic. However, Presto teaches both of the inner and outer panels are made of plastic reinforced fiberglass or other suitable plastic material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have made the inner and outer panels of Habdas to be plastic reinforced fiberglass panels as taught by Presto in order to have a double-walled panel that is lightweight. Further, it is well-within the level of skill in the art to utilize the known materials of plastic per se to produce the door panels of Habdas therefrom accordingly to its suitability of intended use without structurally alter the door function thus it does not produce any new matter or unexpected results.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khoa Tran whose telephone number is (703) 306-3437. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun, can be reached on (703) 308-2156. The fax phone number for this Group before a final Office action is (703) 872-9306 and after a final Office action is (703) 872-9327.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Khoa Tran

September 29, 2004



LESLIE A. BRAUN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER